



# PORTLAND MAINE

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Portland Police Department  
Michael J. Sauschuck  
Chief of Police

July 25, 2012

MuckRock News  
Dept MR 1561  
PO Box 55819  
Boston, MA 02205-5819

Re: Request for Portland Police Department Drone Documents

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in response to a request under Maine's Freedom of Access Act, 1 M.R.S.A. §401, *et. seq.* for police department records relating to the department's acquisition, use of and policies regarding aerial drones. Pursuant to Title 1 M.R.S.A. §402, "the term 'public record' means any written, printed or graphic matter or any mechanical or electronic data compilation from which information can be obtained, directly or after translation into a form susceptible of visual or aural comprehension, that is in the possession or custody of an agency or public official of this State or any of its political subdivisions ... and has been received or prepared for use in connection with the transaction of public or governmental business or contains information relating to the transaction of public or governmental business.

In regards to your FOAA requests:

1. Requests for proposals, proposals submitted by vendors, contracts, budgets or cost allocations for the purchase and/or use of aerial drones, UAs, UAVs, and UASs (hereinafter "drones").

**There are no records in the possession of the Portland, Maine Police Department responsive to your request.**

2. Policies, guidelines, manuals and/or instructions on department use of drones, including on the legal process required (such as a warrant or court order), in any, before operating a drone.

**There are no records in the possession of the Portland, Maine Police Department responsive to your request.**

3. Departmental records concerning this department's use of drones now or plans to use drones in the future including:

a. the types of investigations or instances in which this department is using or plans to use drones, or how it plans to support, manage or oversee the usage of drones by another department or office.

**There are no records in the possession of the Portland, Maine Police Department responsive to your request.**

b. policies, guidelines, manuals and/or instructions on storage requirements or procedures for video or static images obtained through the use of drones, including retention times.

**There are no records in the possession of the Portland, Maine Police Department responsive to your request.**

c. the altitude at which drones can or do fly.


**There are no records in the possession of the Portland, Maine Police Department responsive to your request.**

d. drones' ability to carry weapons.

**There are no records in the possession of the Portland, Maine Police Department responsive to your request.**

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have further questions regarding this request.

Sincerely,



Michael J. Sauschuck  
Chief of Police